dered modern authors cautious in quoting him upon such points. Lacépède however, not having the advantage of the more modern discoveries in this important department of natural science, has adopted the error; but, having ascertained that specimens of the same animal had been brought from the new world, he assigns to it the two incompatible habitats of the East Indies and Carolina. The truth is, that it is not only an American species, but in a great measure exclusively an American form.

Notwithstanding the repeated notices which have appeared of the young state of this tortoise, and the numerous figures which have been given of it—three of which however, those of Seba, of Lacépède, and of Spix, can alone be considered as original,—its adult condition has never before been represented. The present Plates are taken from the smaller of two specimens which I had alive, and which I received from Tropical America. The markings on the head are here represented, as they exist in the living animal, of a bright red colour; but soon after death they become paler, and gradually fade to a yellowish white.

Upon the whole I feel satisfied that the list of synonyms which I have given of this species is correct. I have thought it safe to append a note of interrogation to the quotation from Linnæus; and it would be difficult to quote a single instance in the whole of his genus *Testudo*, in which his characters could be considered distinctive. Seba's figure is also a little doubtful; but that of Lacépède is conclusive, as even the peculiar markings on the head are distinctly to be traced. His description is so imperfect, that were it not for the figure, it would be impossible to tell to what species it was intended to refer.

Like all other fluviatile species, this tortoise is carnivorous, feeding on frogs, fish, and any other small animals. The two which I had in my possession fed freely on small pieces of raw meat, but never showed the slightest disposition to bite or snap when teased, differing in this respect from *Emys decussata*, *E. serrata*, and other large American species of the genus. The egg is of a very peculiar form, being a long oval. That from which the figure is taken was found, after death, in the oviduct of the larger of the two specimens mentioned above.